2.

A

WORD

CONCERNING

LIBELS

AND

LIBELLERS,

Humbly Presented

To the Right Honorable Sir *John Moor*, Lord-Mayor of *London*, and the Right Worshipfull the Aldermen his Brethren.

By *Roger L'Estrange.*

LONDON,

Printed for *Joanna Brome* at the Signe of the *Gun* in S. *Pauls* Church-yard. 1681.

To the Right Honorable Sir *John Moor*, Knight, *Lord-Mayor* of the City of *London*, and to the Right Worſhipful, the *Aldermen*, his Brethren.

BEing given to underſtand that your Lordſhip and the Court of Aldermen have lately taken into conſideration the bus'neſs of *Seditious Libells*, and *Papers*; and that for want of *particular Enformation*, the matter proceeded no further at that time, then to a *Generall Admonition*; which extended to the *Innocent*, as well as to the *Guilty*, through the Falſe and Malitious Practices of the *Criminalls*, for the Involving of both ſorts under the ſame *Scandall*, and *Condemnation*; I reckon it my duty to the *King*, the *Church*, the *City*, to every *Honeſt man*, and in the laſt place, to *my Self*, to preſent your Lordſhip and the Bench of Aldermen your Brethren, with the means of diſtinguiſhing the One from the Other; In full aſſurance, that your *Loyalty*, *Generoſity*, and *Wiſedom*; your love of *Truth*, *Peace*, and *Common Equity*, will diſpoſe you to Vindicate his Majeſties *Crown* and *Dignity*; the *Royal Family*, the honour of the *Government*, and all that is Sacred in *humane Society*, againſt all Inſults whatſoever; and Cauſe *Exemplary Juſtice* to be done upon ſuch Offenders in theſe Caſes, as ſhall be found properly under your Authority, and Jurisdiction. I ſhall not Clog this Paper with Inſtances, either *ſuperfluous*, or of *Ancient Date*; but keep my ſelf within compaſs, both for *Time*, and *Bulk*; Citing the Book, and the Page; ſtill as I go along with the *Publiſhers Name* in the *Margent*. And it will likewiſe appear from the Pamphlets themſelves, that there's a *Form'd Conſpiracy* againſt both *Church* and *State*, for the deſtruction of the *Whole*, and of every *Part* of it, *Root* and *Branch*.

John Kidgell and Richard Baldwin.

The Book that deserves the first place in this consideration, was printed for *John Kidgel*, at the *Atlas* in *Cornhill* 1682. and publish'd by *Richard Baldwin*, in the *Old-Bayly*: A *Bold*, and a *Common Agent* for the promoting of *Sedition*; and it carries the *design*, in the very *Title*, and *Face* on't. [*Rights of the Kingdom, or Customs of our Ancestors, touching the Duty, Power, Election or Succession of our Kings, and Parliaments, Our TRUE Liberty, DUE Allegeance, Three Estates, THEIR Legislative Power, Original, Judicial, and Executive; with the Militia: Freely discussed, through the* Brittish, Saxon, Norman Laws & Histories]

This Gallimawfrey of Fragments was first publish'd in 1649. in favour of *Cromwells* Proceeding, and Government: the main Stress of the Discourse, resting upon these two Points. *First*, that *the Late King was lawfully put to death. Secondly*, that the *English Monarchy* is not *Hereditary*, but Elective: And so the Author, by Presidents, either Impertinent, Unwarrantable, Perverted, or misapply'd, supports his Pretensions the best he can.

Finding this Treasonous Piece to be now Re-printed, I could not but bethink my self *To what end?* And this Curiosity put me upon comparing the *Two Editions*, to see, how far they *Agreed*; wherein they *Differ'd*: or whether this *Latter Impression* were the very same with the *Original*. Upon the Examination, I find severall sly Variations, and Additions, and many things Omitted in the Latter Copy; which gives first to understand that this is not the work of a Bookseller, or Printer, for profit; but a Regular, and Industrious Disposition of the matter for some other purpose: And what that Purpose is may be easily gather'd from the Pulse and *Bias* of the Treatise; For the *Omissions*, though *Many*, & *Large* are only such as apply the Arguments for the Sovereign Power of a *Parliament* or the *People*, to the *Defence* of the *Late Kings Murther*; or else such as strike so directly at the *Subversion* of the *Monarchy*; that the Age is not as yet either so Mad, or so Wicked as to bear it: But his Arguments, and Reasonings all this while, for the *Peoples Right* of Calling their *Kings* to an *Account*, remain *Whole*, and *Untouch'd*; So that his *Maintenance* of the *Peoples Power* over the *King*, even to the *Deposing* and putting of him to *Death*, stands as

as good againſt *this King* as it did againſt his *Father*; and ſpeaks the *Publiſher* and the *Author* to be both of a mind in the Caſe. In One word, the *two Poſitions* of this Villanous *Book*, are the *Two Pillars* of the *Aſſociating Plot*. And if the Faction can but *firſt* perſwade the Multitude, that if the *King* will not do as the *People* would *have him*, the *People* may deal with the King as they *pleaſe*: And *Secondly*, That this is an *Elective Monarchy*; there's the *King's*, the Duke of *York's*, and the *Government's buſineſs* done at a *Blow*. But I ſhall leave the Author to Expound his own meaning in three or four paſſages omitted in this new Edition.

I cannot ſee (ſays he) *why it ſhould be a Crime for any to deſire that an Action of ſuch Concernment* (putting the King to death) *might be fully Clear'd to be Juſt, and acted Juſtly. Page* 2. And again.

I would gladly have ſpoken all that I juſtly might, to have ſaved him from death, till I had ſeen that his Life could not conſiſt with the Peoples Peace and Safety, which I may acknowledge to be the Supreme, and Higheſt Law Humane, P. 3. Further,

My work ſhall be to Enquire of matters of Law: And how by the Laws and Cuſtoms of this Kingdom, it may be known, Adjudged and Declar'd what is the Duty of our King, and whether he hath done it or not; and in caſe of failure, how it may be judg'd, who they be that muſt determine it, ſo that the Subject may and ſhould be quiet, and ſubmit to ſuch an Act Judiciall and Concluſive. Pag. 4. Once again.

It may ſeem a ſhort work and ſoon ſayd when the King breaks his Truſt, the Parliament muſt Judge him, and when the Lords refuſe, the Commons might and muſt, becauſe it was Neceſſity; *but I am loth to hide my ſelf in a Dark* Chaos, *I had rather ſee it Cleared in the Open Sun. P.* 4.

This is ſufficient to ſhew the Opinion, and the Drift of the Author; wherein he declares himſelf, that the Late King was Juſtly put to death, and undertakes by Law and Reaſon to prove it; So that his Pretended Proofs being now Expos'd to the Publick, by *Kidgell*, and *Baldwin*, in the very ſame terms with

with the *Original*, must neceſſarily render the Late *Publiſhers* as Guilty as the *Author*. There runs a Vein of Sedition through the whole Tract; but ſome Few Inſtances out of this late Impreſſion ſhall ſerve the Turn.

[*Let us Diſcuſſe it* (ſays he) *by Law and Reaſon, what is our Legiall* Fealty; *how made, how Limited, how kept, or how* DISSOLV'D. *P.* 11.] So that our *Allegeance* may be *Diſſolv'd*, it ſeems, and is only *Conditionall*. And again. [Allegeance *was* ad Legem *to the* Laws, *the* Kingdom, *and the* Kingdoms good, *or* Profit, *together with the* King. *P.* 18.] We'l ſee now what he ſays to the Point *of Election* or *Succeſſion*. [*In the time* (ſays he) *of* Hen. 1. *and* Hen. 2. *there were ſome Speciall Acts of Parliament for ſettling the Crown on* Maud *the Empreſs, or her Iſſue. P.* 24.—— *But all ſuch Acts* (*for Tying the Crown to ſuch or ſuch a Family*) *do not Evince a Former Right of Succeſſion. P.* 25.——And then further [*I ſay not* (ſays he Ibid.) *how often it hath been adjudg'd that* Affirmative *Statutes do not annull the* Common Law; *and that one may* Preſcribe *againſt a Statute* Negative, *but in* Affirmance *of the* Common Law,——*So that if an* Engliſh King *was Elective by the* Commou Law, *the* Kingdom *might Preſcribe againſt Late Statutes, which might Erre much more then they could Oblige All Future Parliaments, but they might ſtill be free and moſt of all in what was due before by* Common Law. Ibid.] And moreover *P.* 75. *He grounds his Pretence upon the Speech of* Hubert *at the Coronation of King* John (an Excellent Preſident for his turn) [*It is well known to you all that no man hath Right of Succeſſion to this Crown, Except, that by Unanimous Conſent of the Kingdom, with Invocation on the Holy Ghoſt, he be Elected from his own Deſerts; but if any of the laſt Kings race be more worthy and better then others, his Election is more Proper, or more Reaſonable, as is now is in Earl* John *here preſent.*——*Which* (ſays he, Ibid.) *ſeemeth moſt rightly to* State *the nature of* Succeſſion *as it was in this Kingdom. So that all did amount but to this, That if a King had ſuch Children; ſo Qualify'd, and ſo Educated, that they were above others in Virtue, Wiſdom, and True worth* (*or at leaſt* Cæteris Paribus) *they were the moſt likely Candidates for the Crown.*] So that his Malitious Impoſture reſolves at laſt wholly into this. He ſets the Parliament and the People above the King; and makes the Government *Elective*, by the *Common Law*, and from thence

Concludes

Concludes all those Statutes that Assert the Kings *Sole Sovereignty*, and the Right of *Hereditary Succession*, as *Nullities*, for their Repugnance thereunto.

'Tis true that *Care*, and *Janeway*; (for they are both one in the *Impartial*) have publish'd *Num.* 82. a Rude Advertisement, as if *Baldwin* had not publish'd this *Book*; Whereas One or Two of *Baldwins Servants* were taken at One a Clock on a *Sunday Morning* Posting up the *Title Pages*; which is as much a Publishing them, as if he had sold them Openly in his own shop: Beside, that 'tis probable he knew the Malice of the *Book*, by the Close, and Unseasonable course he took for the Notifying and dispersing of it. I have been forc'd to speak at large upon This; but I shall be shorter in the rest, and go on a little upon the same Head of *Sedition*.

[*All Considering People will now see that Conventiclers are not punish'd and ruin'd for holding Conventicles; but for being zealous for the Protestant Religion, and Government by advice of Parliament, against* Popery, *and* Clandestine Arbitrary Councells.] *Post-script to Remarques upon Sr. William Smiths Speech at* Hicks Hall; Publish'd by *Baldwin* again. Richard Baldwin.

Here is first a *Vote* of the *Commons*, set up above the Authority of several *Establish'd Laws*. 2*ly*. The King himself charg'd with a design of *Suppressing* the *Protestant Religion*, and Advancing the Interest of *Popery*, in Requiring the Execution of 'em; and with *Clandestine Arbitrary Councells*, over and above.

Double your Watches (says *Janeway* in his *Vox Patriæ*) *Chain up the Streets of the City day and night. Suffer not any Body of Armed Soldiers, Greater, or Less* (*other then the Trained Bands of this City*) *to march through any part of the City*, P. 1.] Richard Janeway.

Here's a Proposall of keeping his Majesty out of *London* by *Force*, as the *Rebells* did his Father out of *Hull*: and the Printing of this Paper can have no other End, then to Invite and Encourage the Nation into a *Tumult*. And what's the Ground of this Audacious Proposall, but the [*Surprizing Prorogation of the Parliament*. Ibid.] So that the *King* shall not Exercise the undoubted *Prerogatives* of his *Royall Authority*, upon pain of *Janeways* denouncing War against him.

In the same Libell P. 17 he has a Pretended Address from *Sussex* to the *Knights* of the *Shire*, declaring that [*they will* Richard Janeway.

stand

ſtand by and defend them with their Lives and Fortunes in doing whatſoever they ſhall judge neceſſary for the Peace, Safety, and Proſperity of the Nation (if any danger ſhould threaten them.) And the People of *Winchelſea* undertake as far to *their Burgeſſes*, P. 20. Thereby diſowning their duty to *their Sovereign*, and transferring their Allegeance to their *Fellow-Subjects*. The Burden of the Song from one end to the other of this Pamphlet being *the* Excluſion *of his* Royall Highneſs, *and* Barring *the* Kings Supply, with an intermixture of *demanding the* Artillery, *the* Militia, *the* Regulation *of* Courts Eccleſiaſtical, *and* Civil, *a* Bill *of* Aſſociation; *the diſpoſing of all* Publick Offices *and* Charges, *&c.*

Suppos'd by *Baldwyn.*

The *Sheriffs Caſe* makes [*King, Lords,* and *Commons, to be a Corporation*] which amounts to no leſs then a *Depoſing* of the *King*.

John Starkey.

[*That* Bugbear Paſſive-Obedience (*ſays* Jo. Starkey *in the Character of a Popiſh Succeſſor. P.* 20.) *is a Notion crept into the world, and moſt zealouſly, and perhaps as Ignorantly defended.*] What is this but a *Papall Abſolution*? But then in the *Second Part P.* 34. the Nail is driven to the *Head*. [*Have we not had a Late King of* Portugal *Depoſed, as Delirious and Frantick, and conſequently render'd by Law Uncapable of Reigning; and all this done by his own Subjects, and thoſe of his own Religion, without the leaſt Reflection of Treaſon or Rebellion, or the Aſperſion of Liſting a hand againſt the Lords Anointed?*] What is this but to tell the People, that there needs no more to the *Depoſing* of a Prince, then the Outcry of the *Multitude*, that *he is not fit to Govern?*

Theſe Outrages upon the Laws of God and man will never find Protection within the Walls of this Loyal City; And this *Licence* is not more the *Shame* of the *Government*, then the *Vile Inſtruments* are in truth the *Diſhonour* of *Mankinde*.

The Deſperate Practices, Declarations and Poſitions of the *Scottiſh Covenanters*, even to the barefac'd avowing of it to *be their Duty to deſtroy the King, the Royal Family, and the* Perſons *as well as the* Order *of the Biſhops*, is too notorious to be either *Conceal'd, Palliated, or Deny'd*; which put the Government, in Concluſion, upon a *Teſt*; as the only *Expedient* for

for the ſecuring both of the *Church* and *State*, againſt the Violent, and Impious Machinations of thoſe Diabolical Spirits; and (in effect) for preſerving the Peace of the *Two Kingdoms*. Juſt now, upon this very Inſtant of Time, when the *Scottiſh Faction* were Meditating New Commotions; out comes *Curtis*'s *Cheat*, and *Mockery* of the *Arraignment*, *Tryal*, and *Condemnation* of a *Dogg* for refuſing the *Teſt*, and the whole Proceſs *Ridicul'd* in the very *Form* and *Terms* of the *Law*; and Dreſs'd up in ſo Contemptuous a manner that nothing was ever more Rudely and Spitefully treated then the Kings Authority, and the Wiſdom of the *Scottiſh Nation* in that Act of State. *Langley Curtis.*

After theſe Affronts upon the *King himſelf*, it is not to be expected that they ſhould treat his *Royal Highneſs*, at a Civiller rate: But how this Privilege of *Queſtioning Sovereign Authority*; *Diſcharging Subjects* of their *Allegiance*; and Diſpoſing of the *Crowns* of *Princes*, comes to be the Subject of every *Mean*, and *Mercenary Pen*; will be taken I hope into a ſeaſonable Conſideration.

One of the moſt Seditious Impoſtures that has yet ſeen the Light, was a Libel that paſſed under the Title of [*Bedlo's Narrative of the Fires,*] which was almoſt *wholly*, and *Verbatim* taken out of other Scandalous Libels of Former Date, and Fobb'd upon the Nation under the *Name*, and *Authority* of one of the *Kings Witneſſes*. *Care* put it together, and it was Printed in *Bedlo's Abſence*. The main Scope of the Pamphlet, was to poſſeſs the People as if the *Duke of York*, the *Guards*, and the *Court-Party*, had *Countenanced*, and *Promoted* the *Conflagration*. [*The Kings* Life-Guard (*he ſays*) reſcued a Man that was taken in the Act of Firing a Houſe. *Pag.* 9.] *And again* [*One of the* Life-Guard threw *Fire-Balls* into a Womans Lapp. *Pag.* 10.] [The *Duke* of *York* took a *French-man* into his Cuſtody, and ſaid *I will ſecure him*, but he was heard of no more, *Ibid.*] *Four Life-Guard-men* reſcued *another French-man*, &c. *Ibid.*] *Another French-man* carried before the *D.* of *Y.* and heard of no more. *Pag.* 11. *And ſo another in like manner. Pag.* 13. There's another Charg'd with Burning the City, and his Father is ſaid to anſwer for him; [*My Son doth nothing but what he has a Patent from the King for. Pag.* 11.] *Hen. Care.*

Hen. Care. Langley Curtis. In the *Popish Courant* of *Jan.* 14. 1680. The same *Henry Care* and *Langley Curtis* kill two Birds with one Stone. [*'Tis certain* every Papist is (*Implicitly at least*) *a* Rebel, *and a* Traytor.] Here's no Exception of either *Queen*, or *Duke*, nor of the very *Preservers* of his Sacred Majesty, when the Rebellious *Schismaticks pursued* him, to *Murther him.* Nay, 'tis so far from an *Exception*, that he points with his Finger to That he would be at. [*If ever* (says the Courantier *a little below*) we get a Popish Successor into the Saddle, and the *Black Tantivy-men*, to hold the Stirrup, whilst his Holiness rides the dull Beasts at Pleasure, *We'll burn all the Heretical Doggs*, &c.] So *that it* seems we have a *Popish Clergy* too as well as a *Popish Successor.* And then to Finish his Complement, *July* 22. 1681. [We have (*says he*) got a New *Fry of Church-men*, prepared by *Hobbs*, and the *Play-house*, that care not a farthing for any Religion, provided they may but *Swagger* and *Domineer*, and *Swear*, and *Damn*, and Drink Healths with a *Huzza.*]

Jo. Starkey. I shall only take a Taste here, of that Venemous [*Character of a Popish Successor.*] Though sufficient to give any Honest man Horror for the very *Syllables* of it, but much more to see such *Daring Insolencies* pass *Unpunished.* He calls his *Royal Highness* Pag. 10. [*the Greatest, and only Grievance of the Nation*; *the Universal Object of their Hate* and *Fear, and the Subject of their Clamours, and* CURSES. And a little further, with as much Malice to the *King* as to the *Duke*, he pronounces his Majesty as good as lost for his Friendship (as he Expresses it) to [*that One* GANGREEND *Branch of Royalty.*] This is a Subject too Foul to Enlarge upon, and I make no question, but those *Generous* and *Loyal Magistrates* that Entertained so *Honourable* an *Indignation* for a *Brutal Outrage* upon the *Duke's Picture* will be answerably sensible of these Affronts upon *Common Morality*, and *Justice*; and the *Honour* of their *Sovereign* in the Person of his *Royal Brother.*

Janeway. How does *Janeway* Rage in his *Vox Patriæ* against *The Wretched Pensioners* in *Pag.* 2 [*Those Execrable Villains that by receiving Pensions betray'd our Trusts, and our Libertys in the Late Long Parliament*, Pag. 17.] [*Those Abominable Monsters. Pag.* 20.] And what were these *Pensioners* at last; but a *List of Honest Gentlemen, Proscribed* as the *Strafordians* were, upon the Entrance into the late Rebellion;

lion; for Adhering to their *Conſciences*, and their *Duty*'s. Divers *Privy Councellors*, and other Perſons of *Value* and *Credit*, in their *Stations*, and of *Unqueſtionable Worth*, in the Opinion of all that ever knew them?

And the *Addreſſers* are to be ſerved with the ſame Sauce too. [*A Popiſh and Arbitrary Deſign at the Bottom. Baldwin*'s tendency of Addreſſes. *Pag.* 9.] [*The Scum and Refuſe of the Places where they live. Pag.* 12.] Though the moſt Eminent Subjects of the Nation. [*Some little Bankrupt Tradeſmen; a Scandalous and Diſgrac'd Attorney, one whoſe Neceſſity Expoſes him to be Biaſſed by Cruſts of Bread and Pots of Ale.* Ibid.] And now to *Janeway* and *Care* in Conjunction. *Rich. Baldwin.*

[Moſt of the Subſcribers (ſays the *Impartial. Numb.* 15.) are Ruffians, and Beggerly Vermin, *drawn in by Pots of Ale*, and *not Apprentices*] and there's nothing ſcapes better that falls in their way. And the *Impartial again*, Numb. 16. *Care*, and *Janeway.*

[*Alderman Pilkington*, and Mr. *Shute are fit Perſons to Serve the City next Year in Quality of Sheriffs*, &c.——*But there are a Pack of People that ſcarce know what they would have*; *Moſt Induſtriouſly Endeavouring, by* Caballs, *and* Drunken, Factious Clubs, *to pull up ſome other Perſons*, &c.] This is to ſay, in ſhort; that whoſoever gives his Vote for any other man is a *Drunken, Factious Raſcal.* *Care* and *Janeway.*

What work has *Janeway* made, (*Impartial. Numb.* 47.) With a Scandalous, and Malicious Forgery of a *Debauche* committed upon *Michaelmas day laſt*, in the Church of *All-hallows Staining*, and the Story Falſe from one end to the other! But it was the Spleen of the Faction, when they could not diſappoint the Election, (though by the Meaneſt Practices Imaginable) to be Revenged upon thoſe Honeſt Gentlemen that were deſirous, by Ringing the Bells, to welcome the *Perſon Elected* into his *Office.* *Janeway* and *Care.*

It would be Endleſs, (and truly as Needleſs) to run through the Hiſtory of the Scandals upon all thoſe *Places*, and *Perſons*, that have Acted *Dutifully* and *Affectionately* for the Common Ser- of the *Church* and the *Crown*. Is not the King Twitted for his *Veniſon* to ſome of the *Addreſſers*? Is not *Norwich*, *Briſtol*, &c. Charged with Deſigns of Setting up *Popery* and *Arbitrary Power*? The *Artillery Company* of *Briſtol*, Blaſted as an *Illegal Uſurpation*,

and Calumniated for a *Private Test*, as if there were a *Popish Conspiracy* in the Bottom of it? Let but any Man open his Mouth for the *King* and the *Government*, and he is presently a *Bogg-Trotter*, a *Witness* in such a Cause, a *Jury-man* in such a One, a *Judge* in another; and Branded for all the Villanies which that Sink of Infamy, the *Faction* can throw upon him. A *Turn-Coat*, a *Fidler*, *a Beggarly Rascal*; a *Drunken*, *Blaspheming Wretch*; a *Sworn Papist*: One that has *Whor'd* his *Mother*, *Betray'd* his *Prince*, and in short; 'tis but Raking of *Hell* for a Catalogue of the most *Damning Sins* that ever carried any man thither to furnish out the Character of a Person that Honestly Interposes betwixt *Religion*, and *Sacrilege*, betwixt *Sedition* and the *Laws*; betwixt the *Prince* and the *Regicide*, and betwixt *Order*, and *Confusion*.

Rich. Baldwin. Neither are the *King's Ministers*, *Magistrates*, *Justices*, *Juries*, and *Witnesses*, nay, the *King himself* one jot more respectfully handled in *Baldwin's two Parts of the No Protestant Plot*; and the Scandals run through from one end to the other.

Janeway. *Janeway* (in his *strange News from* Hicks's *Hall*) calls the *Middlesex Justices*, *Adulterers*, *Whore-mongers*, *Swearers*, *Drunkards*, *Cheats*, *Pag.* 6. and *Janeway* again in his *Ignoramus Justices* (but of the other day) takes upon him to Arraign and Declare Law, and to Juggle the People into a Mis-understanding and Contempt of all those wholsome Statutes which the Wisdom of our Fore-Fathers hath provided for the Security of the *Protestant Religion, and the Peace of the Kingdom*: With this Sawcy Reflection upon the Bench in the very Title Page [*Some Directions to the Officers that may be Threatned, or Perswaded to Act by such Unwarrantable Orders from such* IGNORAMUS *JUSTICES.*]

Janeway.

It is the Opinion of Men well vers'd in the Trade of Book-Selling, that there has not been so little as 30000 Ream of Paper spent upon this Seditious Subject, in this Late Liberty of the Press. But I shall stop here, with an Humble Recommendation of the whole Matter to the Right Honourable your Lordship, and to the Right Worshipful the Aldermen your Brethren. I shall not need to suggest that the Government of the *City* can never be *safe*, while That of the *Kingdom*; is in *danger* for it was notoriously the Effect of this intolerable Licence, that subjected the *Regular Authority* of the City to *Arbitrary Armies* and *Committees*;

mittees; that ſtripp'd the *Magiſtracy* of their *Privileges* and *Ornaments*, and ſet up *Thimble-makers*, *Dray-men* and *Coblers* for their *Lords* and *Maſters*. I need not mind your Lordſhip of the Agreement betwixt the *Paſt* and *Preſent Degrees*, *Methods* and *Pretences* of Proceeding, betwixt *their Godly Party*, and *our True Proteſtants*, falſly ſo called; nay, I have heard of the *ſame Faces* now at work again, under the *ſame Vizors*. It is not a thing forgotten, that when the fear of Tyranny was pretended, the very Pretenders to thoſe Fears exerciſed the moſt Barbarous Tyranny in Nature, themſelves; nor was there ever ſo *Baſe* and *Scandalous* a *Vaſſallage*, as that which the unwary Multitude drew upon themſelves under the hope of *Liberty*. The apprehenſions of *Popery* Vaniſhed in the Deſtruction of the *Canonical Clergy*; the ſetting up of a *Preaching Miniſtry* concluded in the *Plundering*, *Ejecting*, *Sequeſtring*, &c. All the *Orthodox* and *Loyal Divines* of the *Kingdom*; turning the Churches into *Stables*, and ſupplying the Pulpits with *Red-Coats* and *Mechanicks*; Conſecrating at laſt, the *Pretended Purity* of the *Goſpel* with the moſt *Unchriſtian Outrages* of a *Barbarous Sacrilege*. A *Tory* is the Name now, for a *Popiſh Dogg*, or a *Malignant* of *Forty One*: And the Inſolency of the Rabble upon Captain *Griffith*, in *November* laſt, when they cry'd *Kill him*; *he's a* Tory, *Kill him*; knowing him at the ſame time to be an Officer of the *Lieutenancy*, an Ancient *Common Council-man*, and at that inſtant, upon his *Duty*, and *within his own Precinct*. That Inſolence (with ſubmiſſion) looks like an Earneſt of their good Will to the ſubverting of the *Government* in *General*, and that of the *City* in *particular*; and an Eſſay toward the accompliſhing of that Work. To ſay nothing of other Inconveniencies that may ariſe by Forcing men upon *Perſonal Revenges*, unleſs theſe *Scandalous Liberties* may be Adverted upon by *Publick Juſtice*.

Having here laid before your Lordſhip both the *Quality* of the *Crimes* ſuggeſted, and the *Names* of ſeveral of the *Criminals*; and all of them Perſons too, within the reach of your *Command*: It is not ſo much *L'Eſtrange*, as the *Common Voice* of an *Injur'd Government* and *People* that makes this Application.

But I am further to repreſent to your Lordſhip, that at the ſame time, while theſe Libellous Papers and Agents go Scot-free, the Authors and Publiſhers of other Books and Papers, whoſe

whose Business is only to vindicate the Government from the Forgeries, Calumnies, Malice and Sedition of the Dayly Libels of *Care*, *Curtis*, *Janeway*, *Baldwin*, &c. are *Presented*, and the *Bills found*; as Mrs *Brome* particularly, for the *Observator*, by a certain *Grand Jury*, who, according to their Oath, could neither *see*, nor *hear* of any thing on the other hand; while yet at the same time, almost every *Stall* is *cover'd*, and every *Coffee-House furnished* with *News-Papers* and *Pamphlets* (both *written* and *Printed*) of *Personal Scandal*, *Schism* and *Treason*. But I shall now desire your Lordship and your Right Worshipful Brethren to take Notice what it is that the *Animals* of this Age call the *Favouring of Popery*, and the *Creating of Misunderstanding betwixt His Majesty and People*.

The *Observator*, Num. 27. (after some Remarks upon the *Practices* and *Positions* of a *Phanatical Party*) says to this purpose; [*Never Mince the Matter*; *but instead of Demanding This or That, under a Disguise, speak plain, and put the Sence of the Party into the Form of a Petition*:] And then follows the Petition at length, in these very Syllables.

Your Majesties most Humble and Obedient Subjects, having suffered many Disappointments, by reason both of *Short* and of *Long Parliaments*; and the late Executing of the Law against *Dissenters*; the Pretences of *Tyranny* and *Popery* being grown stale, the *Popish Plot* drawn almost to the Dregs; and the Eyes of the People so far open, that they begin to see their *Friends* from their *Enemies*; to the Disheartning of All *True Protestants*, and the Encouraging of the Sons of the Church: We your Majesties *Dissenting Subjects*, being thereby brought unto so low a state, that without a Timely Relief, We the *Godly People of the Land*, must inevitably Perish.

May it please your Majesty to Grant the Right of Calling *and* Dissolving Parliaments, *Entring into* Associations, Leagues *and* Covenants; *the Power of the* Militia,

Militia, War *and* Peace, Life *and* Death, *the Authority of* Enacting, Suſpending *and* Repealing Laws, *to be in your Liege People the* Commons *of* England. *And theſe Things being Granted, (whereof your Petitioners ſtand in great need) if your Majeſty wants either* Men *or* Monies, *for the Support of Your Royal* Dignity *and* Government, *your Majeſty ſhall ſee what we your Loyal Petitioners will do for you.*

The *Obſervator* above-mention'd, concludes in theſe Words; [*All the Reſt is* Cant *and* Gibberiſh; *but This is* Engliſh.] This *Perſonated Petition* is no more, in fine, than a *Compendium* of their *Demands* and *Complaints*, dreſs'd up in their own Hypocritical Terms: So that the *Sedition* lies in the *Defending* of the *King*'s *Crown* and *Dignity*, and the *Laws of the Land*; Which neceſſarily implies an *Allowance* and *Juſtification* of the *Libellous Oppoſers* of the *Government*.

FINIS.